

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-22 are now in the application. Claims 5-11 are subject to examination. Claims 1-4 and 12-22 are withdrawn from consideration, being directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 5-11 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages. Claims 23 and 24 have been canceled.

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 5-11, 23, and 24 have been rejected as being anticipated by Haijima et al. (US 5,456,175) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims now recite an assembly of an imaging machine and a printing plate which is magnetically attractable. Support for the changes is found on page 13, line 24 to page 14, line 14 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Independent claim 5 calls for, inter alia, **an assembly of an**

imaging machine and a magnetically attractable printing plate, in which the imaging machine sets an image on the magnetically attractable plate, the imaging machine contains a magnetic cylinder magnetically holding the printing plate during the setting of an image thereon, and the magnetic cylinder has at least one magnet that magnetically attracts the printing plate and is either a permanent magnet or an electromagnet.

The Haijima et al. reference discloses a printing sheet making and printing apparatus containing an arrangement for securing a non-magnetic printing sheet 1 onto a cylinder 30 for engraving of the printing sheet. As illustrated in Fig. 61, the sheet is secured in place by a printing sheet clamper 258 that presses against the periphery of the cylinder and is engaged to hold the sheet 1 in place by magnetic attraction from a magnet 260 that is recessed in the periphery of the cylinder 30. The clamper is pulled against the periphery of the cylinder by magnetic attraction. The non-magnetic printing plate or sheet 1 is made of a thermoplastic epoxy resin, such as polyethylene-resin. There is no disclosure or suggestion to make the plate from a magnetically attractable material as recited in claim 5 of the instant application. Nor would it be obvious to replace the thermoplastic resin with a magnetically attractable material, because the printing sheet clamper 258 is attracted by the separate magnet 260 and not the printing plate 1. See column 28, lines 3-6, for

example. The cylinder 30 does not directly interact with and hold the printing plate 1 firmly in place.

Haijima et al. do not show an assembly of an imaging machine and a magnetically attractable printing plate, wherein a magnetic cylinder has at least one magnet that magnetically attracts the printing plate, as recited in claim 5 of the instant application.

In item 5 on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 24 has been rejected as being anticipated by Montgomery et al. (US 5,947,028) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

This rejection of claim 24 is moot, because claim 24 has been canceled herewith.

In item 6 on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 24 has been rejected as being anticipated by Ganton (US 6,130,702) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

This rejection of claim 24 is moot, because claim 24 has been canceled herewith.

In item 8 on page 5 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 5-11 and 23 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Ganton (US 6,130,702) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Ganton reference discloses a method for the loading of unexposed printing plates onto an exposure device, wherein the plates 4 are loaded onto an imaging drum 13, located or registered by the mechanical edge 15, and clamped in place by a magnetic clamp 16. The clamp cooperatively interacts with the drum to secure the plate edge to the drum. The printing plate is made of aluminum, coated with a polymer layer 5.

Ganton does not show a printing plate containing a material, which is attracted and held firmly in place magnetically while setting the image thereon as recited in claim 5 of the instant application. In Ganton, the printing plate 4 is made of aluminum and coated with a polymeric material 5. The plate is not attracted magnetically (see column 10, lines 10 et seq.) by a magnetic cylinder. Also, it would not be obvious to use a material which could be attracted magnetically instead of a polymeric coated aluminum material for the printing plate as disclosed in Ganton, because the magnet 16 adheres to the ferromagnetic drum 13 with the printing plate edge disposed between the drum and magnet, and not to the printing plate 4 (see column 3, lines 8-10).

Ganton does not show an assembly of an imaging machine and a magnetically attractable printing plate, wherein a magnetic cylinder has at least one magnet that magnetically attracts

the printing plate, as recited in claim 5 of the instant application.

It is apparent that neither Ganton nor Haijima et al. disclose a printing plate that is directly held in place by magnetic force between the magnetic cylinder and the magnetically attractable printing plate as set forth in claim 5. In each of the references, the printing plate is held indirectly by a magnetic force that is applied between a magnet associated with the cylinder or drum and an element disposed externally of the printing plate which cooperates with the magnet.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of independent claims 5. Claim 5 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims 6-11 are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-11.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment

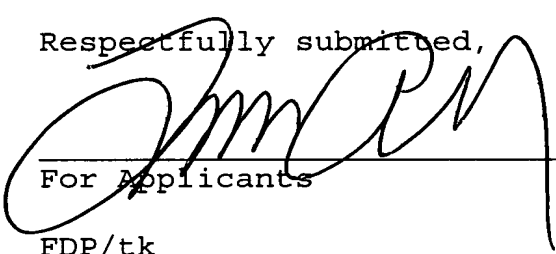
is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

Claim 5 (twice amended). An imaging assembly, comprising a printing plate, and an [An] imaging machine for setting an image on [a] said printing plate, said printing plate formed of a magnetically attractable material, [the] said imaging machine [comprising] including a magnetic cylinder [for] magnetically holding [the] said printing plate firmly during the setting of an image thereon, said magnetic cylinder having at least [a] one magnet for attracting [the] said printing plate magnetically and being selected from the group consisting of permanent magnets and electromagnets.

Claim 6 (amended). The assembly [imaging machine] according to claim 5, wherein said magnetic cylinder has a register system [for] aligning [the] said printing plate.

Claim 7 (amended). The assembly [imaging machine] according to claim 5, wherein said magnetic cylinder has at least one clamping device [for] firmly clamping [the] said printing plate.

Claim 8 (twice amended). The assembly [imaging machine] according to claim 5, wherein said magnet for said magnetic cylinder comprises at least one permanent magnet [for]

magnetically attracting [the] said magnetically attractable printing plate.

Claim 9 (amended). The assembly [imaging machine] according to claim 5, wherein [the] said imaging machine is a plate-exposing machine.

Claim 10 (amended). The assembly [imaging machine] according to claim 5, wherein [the] said imaging machine is a plate-developing machine.

Claim 11 (amended). The assembly [imaging machine] according to claim 5, wherein [the] said imaging machine is a plate-engraving machine.